

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY****JANUARY 22, 2008**

Each year, 6 billion single-use plastic carryout bags are consumed by residents countywide. A significant number become litter since they are lightweight and easily windblown, ending up in our waterways, the ocean, our streets, our parks, and our open space. This has led to a serious detrimental impact on our quality of life, our natural environment and the County's recreational economy. Because plastic carryout bags contribute disproportionately to the litter stream, making up as much as 20 percent of the litter collected, it has also resulted in significant costs to residents.

To reduce the number of plastic bags littered, Assembly Bill 2449 requires, among other things, plastic carryout bags to have the following words imprinted, "please return to a participating store for recycling." Although this recycling message is important, we can and must do more to raise consumer awareness of the environmental impacts associated with littered plastic bags. By making consumers more aware of the problem, consumers would be motivated to use reusable bags more often, thereby ensuring the success of the Single Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program.

- MORE -

*Y/B.*

MOTION

JAN 22 2008

MOLINA

*Adopt*

YAROSLAVSKY

KNABE

ANTONOVICH

BURKE

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**I, THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

1. Instruct the Single Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program Work Group to develop an environmental awareness message to be imprinted on each plastic carryout bag distributed by large supermarkets and retail stores describing the negative impacts littered plastic carryout bags have on the environment and wildlife, and the need to use reusable bags. This environmental awareness message would be a required feature under Alternative 5, Large Supermarket and Retail Store Responsibilities, item 3.
2. Instruct County Counsel, with input from the Single Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program Work Group, to explore the development of an ordinance mandating the environmental awareness message described above to be imprinted on each plastic carryout bag distributed by, at a minimum, large supermarkets and retail stores in the unincorporated County areas.
3. Instruct the Chief Executive Officer to include in the 2007-2008 State Legislative Agenda the sponsoring or pursuit of legislation to amend the provision of Assembly Bill 2449 (Section 42252(a) of the Public Resources Code) to also require an environmental awareness message imprinted on each plastic carryout bag describing the negative impacts littered plastic carryout bags have on the environment and wildlife, and the need to use reusable bags. Currently, Assembly Bill 2449 only requires plastic carryout bags to have the following words imprinted, "please return to a participating store for recycling."